

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 5305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, LI

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER; KEY ISSUES AT 29TH UNGA

REF: (A) STATE 184584; (B) MONROVIA 4835

1. AS REPORTED MONROVIA 4835 WE ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE FOR DISCUSSION UNGA ISSUES IN LATE AUGUST. AFTER SEVERAL APPOINTMENTS WERE CANCELED, IN ARRANGEMENT WITH FONMIN DENNIS' PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT (PADMORE), WE FINALLY DECIDED TO HEDGE AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF HAVING NO OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH DENNIS BY SUPPLYING HIM WITH TWO PAPERS CONTAINING OUR SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS. ONE COVERED ONLY CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUED; OTHER COVERED ALL OTHER UNGA ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US THAT WE BELIEVED NECESSARY TO DISCUSS PARTICULARLY HERE. LATTER POINTS INCLUDED USG-GOL CONSULTATION, USG'S OVERALL UNGA OBJECTIVES, SOUTH AFRICA, PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, RHODESIA, NAMIBIA, KOREA, HUMAN RIGHTS, STEAMROLLER TACTICS, PROGRAM OF ACTION, CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, WORLD CONFERENCES OF FOOD, UN BUDGET AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

2. MEETING WITH FONMIN DENNIS FINALLY TOOK PLACE SEPTEMBER 13. CHARGE FIRST EXPLAINED US OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY FOR COMING
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UNGA SESSION, AS SET FORTH STATE 184584, AND RAN THROUGH LISTED ITEMS, STARTING WITH KHMER CREDENTIALS. HE ALSO TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON OTHERS ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE (E.G. UN SALARY INCREASE) OR IN RESPONSE TO FONMIN'S COMMENTS (E.G. MIDEAST). FOR MOST PART FONMIN WAS NONCOMMITTAL. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF EXCHANGES WORTH NOTING:

3. CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION. CHARGE EXPLAINED SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AND STRONG US VIEWS, AS SET FORTH STATE 184584 AND STATE 192560. FONMIN PROMISED TO LOOK CLOSELY AT THIS ISSUE. BUT HE POINTED OUT NECESSITY OF GOL'S BEING CONSISTENT WITH ITS POSITION IN OAU, THIRD WORLD AND NONALIGNED GROUP. HE STRESSED UNDER THIS ITEM, AS HE DID LATER UNDER AFRICAN ISSUES, CONTROLLING IMPORTANCE OF IMAGE OF PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND HIS ASPIRATIONS TO LEADERSHIP IN ABOVE CONTEXTS. HE BEGGED FOR US UNDERSTANDING ON THIS POINT. CHARGE NOTED US UNDERSTANDING FO GOL'S POSITION IN THESE CONTEXTS, AND STRESSED USG'S STRONG DESIRE FOR CONSULTATIONS LOOKING TOWARD REASONABLE SOLUTIONS BASED ON TRUE CONSENSUS AND REAL POSSIBILITIES. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM FONMIN'S VIEWS, AS STATED IN CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION AND AFRICAN ISSUES SEGMENTS OF DISCUSSION, AS WELL AS HIS EXTREME SENSITIVITY TO STREAMROLLER TACTICS POINT, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IT WILL BE UNUSUAL ITEM INDEED THAT FINDS GOL FAR OUT OF STEP WITH OTHERS OF ABOVE GROUPS.

4. NATURAL RESOURCES. THIS "WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT" FOR GOL, ACCORDING TO FONMIN DENNIS, "SINCE WE DON'T HAVE OIL." HE VOLUNTEERED, HOWEVER, THAT US NEED HAVE NO WORRIES ABOUT GOL'S EMBARKING ON PROGRAM OF NATIONALIZING US HOLDINGS HERE. HE DECLINED TO BE DRAWN ON SPECIFIC POSITIONS GOL WILL TAKE ON RESOLUTIONS MENTIONED PARA 29 OF STATE 184584. DENNIS IDENTIFIED ONLY ONE MATTER ON WHICH HE THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY USG AND GOL WILL BE ABLE TO HARMONIZE THEIR POSITIONS, "ONE AREA OF DISAGREEMENT," HE CALLED IT: QUESTION OF FINISHED PRODUCTS. WE ASSUME HE WAS REFERRING TO COST OF MANUFACTURES IMPORTED BY LDC'S, SINCE HE MADE THIS COMMENT IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S STATEMENT OF US POSITION ON INDEXATION.

5. PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. DISCUSSION THIS ITEM EVOKED ONLY REAL SHOW OF EMOTION ON FONMIN'S PART. WHILE PROFESSING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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UNDERSTAND US POSITIONS ON AFRICAN DECOLONIALIZATION ISSUES, FONMIN COULD NOT CONCEAL HIS (AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S AND HIS PEOPLE'S) SENSE OF DEEP FRUSTRATION AT US REFUSAL TO GO ALONG WITH RADICAL PROPOSALS WHILE SEEING ITS OWN PROPOSED ACTIONS FAIL TO BRING ABOUT DESIRED OBJECTIVES. HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO WITHDRAWAL OF SOUTH AFRICA FROM NAMIBIA. FONMIN WAS, HOWEVER, GRATIFIED BY US STANCE VIS-A-VIS PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES.

6. MIDEAST. ON QHARGE'S ASKING IF FONMIN HAD ANY ISSUES HE WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH US, HE RAISED THIS SUBJECT, VOLUNTEERING THAT PALESTINE ISSUE "GIVES US PROBLEMS BECAUSE WE HAVE NO OIL." NEVERTHELESS, HE WANTED TO EXPRESS HIS CONGRATULATIONS TO SECRETARY FOR HIS EFFORTS IN THIS CONTEXT AND HIS OWN HOPES FOR SECRETARY'S SUCCESS. FONMIN USED THIS SUBJECT AS OPPORTUNITY AGAIN TO STRESS HIS AVAILABILITY FOR CONSULTATION ON ANY OR ALL ISSUES: "WE'RE ALWAYS HERE."

7. SOVIET ITEM ON EFFECT OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS ON CLIMATE. NOTING RECENT INSCRIPTION OF THIS ITEM (HIS DESCRIPTION), FONMIN MERELY STATED THAT "THERE'LL BE NO PROBLEM WITH US."

8. POSSIBLE MEETING WITH SECRETARY. FONMIN EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY "IF THAT IS POSSIBLE." HE THOUGHT THIS PARTICULARLY WISE FROM HIS OWN POINT OF VIEW SINCE PRESIDENT TOLBERT WILL SHORTLY BE IN US (TO RECEIVE FAMILY OF MAN AWARD).

9. SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIBERIA AND US. AGAIN AND AGAIN DURING CONVERSATION FONMIN REFERRED TO "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP." HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD MEAN HELP FOR GOL. "WE NEED IT. WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET."
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